



**For immediate release  
June 20, 2008**

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**STATE OFFICIALS OPEN NEW  
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL POOL  
IN CHELSEA**

State officials joined Chelsea city officials and residents today to celebrate the opening of the new \$6 million Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pool in Chelsea, the first new state pool built in the Boston area in 35 years. The former pool closed in 1999 due to structural problems.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages the pool and co-managed the construction with the state Department of Capital Asset Management. DCR manages 38 pools statewide, most of which were built in the 1960s and 1970s. The Chelsea pool is one of several being replaced over the next few years, featuring new technology and aquatic design standards such as an accessible zero-depth entry, water displays, and an area for lap swimming. The Chelsea facility also includes a tot pool with a mushroom water feature, shade shelters, benches, new locker rooms, and family restrooms.

“Community pools offer relief from the heat for urban residents who can’t get to ocean and inland beaches,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles. “The city of Chelsea has gone too long – nine years – without a public pool, and I couldn’t be happier that, as of today, that’s no longer the case.”

State Senator Anthony D. Galluccio said, “I am proud and excited about the opening of the Vietnam Veterans pool. This pool is a precious resource for the young people of Chelsea, and I know how well used it will be. DCR has done an outstanding job renovating the pool, and the pool will no doubt resume its place as a favorite spot for Chelsea residents to get together, socialize, and stay cool during the summer months.”

Before it closed, the former Chelsea swimming facility included one pool and a bathhouse. The new facility includes the deep-water and tot pools, as well as a bathhouse with changing areas, showers, and restrooms for men and women; a lifeguard room; first-aid room; manager’s office; and reception area. Two family restrooms are near the tot pool, and a third is near the main pool.

“This is a wonderful, family-friendly, swimming facility and we are delighted to be opening it at the start of the season,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “We are confident

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Timothy P. Murray  
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Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

this new pool will become an important element of community life in Chelsea, serving residents and visitors for many years to come.”

The new Chelsea pool is the first pool to be opened under a new initiative to upgrade swimming facilities across Massachusetts and replace the state’s aging swimming pools with a creative new model that reflects contemporary pool design and technology and meets all modern standards of aquatic safety. In total, the Patrick Administration has spent more than \$10 million on the design and construction of this pool and two others, in Attleboro and Brockton, as well as a few smaller upgrade projects at DCR pools in Lawrence and Lowell.

“This state-of-the-art facility is one of three new urban swimming pools that DCR is opening this summer,” Secretary Bowles said, “reflecting Governor Patrick’s commitment to increasing and improving the number of parks and other recreational opportunities available in cities across the Commonwealth.”

Hours at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pool in Chelsea are:

Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.;

Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Admission is free.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*